

Carlisle Conservation Commission

Minutes

January 12, 2012

Chair Peter Burn opened the meeting at 7:35 PM. In addition to Burn, members Luke Ascolillo, Tom Brownrigg, Jenifer Bush, Kelly Guarino and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard were present. Members Tom Brown and Debra Kimbrel-Anderson were absent.

7:35 – 8:00 PM General Agenda Items, New/Pending Business

Minutes – The minutes of 10/13/11 were approved as written; the minutes of 10/27/11 and 11/17/11 were approved with revisions.

Mannis Land survey – Willard reported that the marking by survey of the Mannis Land is complete, and suggested that the commission schedule a visit to walk the bounds of the property.

OPDMP (Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices) update – Willard stated that Town Counsel has reviewed the draft OPDMD policy. The OPDMD group members will meet on Jan. 19 to discuss possible revisions. Willard has requested permission from the Board of Selectmen to speak with Town Counsel regarding OPDMD on conservation restrictions for which the town is grantee on which motorized vehicles are prohibited but will not do so until CRAC has reviewed the document for Conservation Restrictions. Guarino noted that combustion-powered vehicles are not permitted on conservation lands in the draft OPDMD policy, but combustion-powered vehicles are permitted on some conservation lands for agricultural purposes.

8:00 PM DEP 125-0907 Notice of Intent. Applicant: Romie Taylor; Project Location: 125 Bellows Hill Rd.; Project Description: replacement of a failed soil absorption system within the 100 ft. Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

The hearing was opened and continued to the Feb. 9 meeting at 8:00 PM.

8:00 – 8:15 PM Sally Swift and Steve Tobin, CCF: Elliott property sponsorship

Tobin explained that Carlisle Conservation Foundation (CCF) needs a sponsor to request Community Preservation Act funds for purchase of the Elliott property to be called the Mark and Rachel Page Elliott River Preserve. After discussion, the commission decided that CCF should make the presentation at Town Meeting, and that ConsCom will sponsor its request. CCF will prepare an application for submission to the Community Preservation Committee prior to its next meeting on Jan. 27. ConsCom will review the application at its Jan. 26 meeting. According to Tobin, CCF will request \$150,000.

8:15 PM DEP 125-0909 Notice of Intent. Applicant: Constance Wright; Project Location: 56 Peter Hans Rd.; Project Description: installation of a subsurface sewage disposal system and associated grading.

At the request of the applicant, the hearing was opened and continued to the Feb. 9 meeting at 8:15 PM.

8:15 – 8:30 PM General Agenda Items, New/Pending Business, continued

Deborah Geltner - Cranberry Bog House restoration – Co-Chair Deborah Geltner of the Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) reported that the restoration of the Cranberry Bog House is “99.9% complete”, and that LSC would like to extend an invitation to ConsCom to visit the Bog House in the next few weeks. The visit would also include a portion of the cranberry bog field affected by erosion and the break in the dike. After discussion, it was agreed to schedule the visit for Jan. 21 at 9 AM.

Greenough Land skating shed – Guarino moved to add discussion of the shed to the agenda. Guarino suggested that a sign be placed on the shed prior to its removal so that the public is aware that it is scheduled for removal. She also suggested that the concrete sonotube supports be left in place and used as supports for a bench.

CR #33a Trail Easement and Conservation Restriction Violation – Willard reported that a trail at the end of Kimball Rd. and part of CR #33a had been damaged by an abutter’s contractor during the removal of trees from the owner’s property. The terms of the CR do not allow motorized vehicles on the trail. The landscaper involved will attend the next meeting of the Conservation Restriction Advisory Committee on Jan. 24.

Greenough Barn – Guarino said that there were no new developments in a potential use of the barn.

Proposed trail at Foss Farm – Willard reported that several members of the Trails Committee met with abutter Joseph Campagna and Police Chief Fisher and have selected a possible location for a pedestrian crossing across Bedford Rd. to a proposed new trail on Foss Farm.

8:30 – 9:45 PM DEP 125-0910 Notice of Intent. Continued Hearing; Applicant: Elizabeth Barber; Project Location: 100 Aldershot Lane; Project Description: fencing, pathways, plantings, and tree removal.

George Dimakarakos of Stamski & McNary was present to represent Ms. Barber, who arrived at the beginning of the hearing.

Willard had produced a Draft Findings and Special Conditions for 100 Aldershot Lane, and also a Draft Mannis Land Restoration Plan. The commission began with a discussion of the Draft Findings and Special Conditions; each finding and special condition was discussed in order. After discussing these items, discussion moved to the Draft Mannis Land Restoration Plan. Regarding the restoration plan, Ms. Barber stated that she had not removed the deciduous trees on the Mannis Land adjacent to her property. She also stated that she had not removed several large white pines whose cut trunks are located in a wetland north of her property.

After much discussion, the commission decided to allow the larger boardwalk, spanning a potential vernal pool, to remain in place with the condition that support beams using pressure-treated wood be elevated above the surface of the water. A smaller boardwalk, along with fencing, benches, bee hives, plant signs, and other personal property will be removed from the

Mannis Land. The applicant requested the removal of six white pines from her property, and the commission agreed to the removal of four pines, leaving the two largest. Since the wetland north of these pines borders a probable vernal pool, the commission specified that three native conifers be planted in this area. The commission also specified that the applicant submit a planting plan to replace trees and shrubs already removed from the Mannis Land near the applicant's property.

Willard will produce a Final Order of Conditions with Special Conditions and a revised Mannis Land Restoration Plan for an Enforcement Order and discussion at the Jan. 26 meeting.

9:45 PM Mark Duffy: Cranberry Bog dike

Duffy said that he has heard from USDA regarding the possibility of a cost-sharing grant (USDA would pay 75%) to repair the breach at the dike. The USDA Farm Services Agency has declared a Middlesex County a disaster area, but funds for the repair would need to be authorized by Congress. Willard stated that Tiim Goddard, Town Administrator has offered to contact U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas regarding funding the emergency repair. Duffy said that he will begin the paperwork for the grant application.

Duffy said that the cranberry harvest was "great" this fall, and that he has been working with a new crop consultant from New Hampshire on Integrated Pest Management and other issues. He thanked the commission for their help in getting USDA funding.

At 10:15 PM Brownrigg moved to adjourn, Guarino seconded, and all voted in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tom Brownrigg.

Minutes approved 2/09/12.